

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

Presiding: Mayor W. Lamont Merrill
Meeting Convened at 6:30 p.m.
Prayer: Bruce King
Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor W. Lamont Merrill; Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Councilmen Bruce King, Burch Drake, Bruce Arnell, and Matt Garner; Chairman Dave Ogden of the Planning and Zoning Commission; Citizens Nathan Beltran, Tomas Beltran, and JoAnn Clark.

Mayor Merrill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 14, 2015. Each councilman had a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting. It was moved by Councilman Drake and seconded by Councilman King to accept the minutes; motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: Dave Ogden reported that the commission met on May 21 to discuss items of business:

Ordinance No. 307: Madison County Planning and Zoning has approved its Findings of Fact on Ordinance No. 307 and will recommend the proposed ordinance to the county commissioners on June 15. Maps associated with the ordinance rightly show 50 acres of the Harris property in Sugar City's impact area, although Rexburg suggests the area really belongs in their area of impact. Sugar City hopes the county will uphold Ordinance 338, which was adopted by both cities and the county several years ago, and also adopt Ordinance No 307, which Sugar City adopted in October of last year.

Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing Set: A public hearing is set for Thursday, June 18, on proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Council members expressed interest in possibly attending the public hearing if it is in accordance with open meeting laws.

Sugar City Impact Area Expansion: Dave presented to the council ideas on how to protect Sugar City's impact areas and areas of interest and how to inform the public. Town hall meetings may be used to explain the advantages and disadvantages of city infrastructure and to give the public a chance to voice desires and concerns. The Salem area, the area north of Sugar City, and the area south of U.S. 20 are of concern. Development grants could be sought. The consensus of the council was to support the Planning and Zoning Commission's desire to plan town hall meetings.

REGIONAL STATE WATER REPORT: Councilman Arnell reported on the regional water meeting held in Burley last month. The water problem is impacting municipal growth. Several items were discussed and are of concern:

- Cities have growing water needs.
- Over allocation of water from underground aquifer.
- First in time, first in line.
- 95% of water use is by agriculture users.
- Municipalities are not exempt from water calls or calls to decrease or stop usage.
- It cost \$65 million to pipe water to a major fish hatchery in the Magic Valley.
- Cities may be required to help pay for water needed.
- Personal wells are exempt from water calls.
- All municipal wells must be metered by 2018.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: The council discussed code enforcement. The council requested that city attorney Bill Forsberg identify where “misdemeanor” and “felony” should remain in the code. Otherwise, the words should be changed to “infraction.” As currently written, Ordinance No. 305 has already changed “misdemeanor” to “infraction.” Tickets will be collected through the county, with a portion of the penalty money passed back to the city.

ANIMAL ORDINANCE: The council discussed the animal ordinance, which is under revision. Citizen JoAnn Clark was concerned about the many possible negative implications to cat owners and the mice population if cats are contained. The council plans to hold a public hearing on the final draft of the ordinance. Council members discussed the possibility of hiring an animal control officer or dog catcher.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD: The council discussed two names for the “Outstanding Citizen Award.” The selection will be announced at the annual Christmas Dinner in December.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilman Drake and seconded by Councilman King to accept the nominee for the award; motion carried.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA:

MOTION: It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Drake to amend the agenda to include, "Discussion and possible decision on anticipated commercial development in southwest Sugar City and its impact area," on the grounds that this matter has arisen as an important item for discussion since the agenda was posted; motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHWEST SUGAR CITY AND IMPACT AREA DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE DECISION: On behalf of Mayor Merrill, Councilman King provided the council with four questions for discussion (see Attachment 1). The consensus of the council was that:

- The city generally should seek to preserve its opportunities for commercial development.
- Sugar City’s low property taxes, permit and impact fees make it attractive for businesses.
- A consensus is needed on whether to loosen liquor laws, since major hotel and restaurant chains may request it.
- Agreement on loosening liquor laws may be easier if just one zone could be approved for the sale of liquor.
- Attorney Forsberg’s ongoing counsel on these issues is important.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

COUNCILMAN KING: No report.

COUNCILMAN DRAKE: Councilman Drake reported that Harold Harris is willing to head up a historic preservation commission. He is willing to temporarily donate the use of the old theatre to house a museum to get started. There may be grants available to help.

COUNCILMAN ARNELL: Previously given.

COUNCILMAN GARNER:

Teton Dam Marathon: Scheduled for Saturday, June 13. The marathon will have about 50 volunteers to help.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS:

ADA Grant Application: Mayor Merrill reported that the ADA ramp grant for several sidewalk intersections off Center Street will be awarded. Bids will be received for the work.

River Bend Ranch: There have been several discussions on the old county bridge in the northwest corner of town. Originally, River Bend Ranch was going to bring the sewer and water lines over the North Fork of the Teton River attached to the bridge, but expenses were too high. They will be looking at other options and make sure they meet the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality standards.

Fybercom: Mayor Merrill reported that Fybercom will attach a dish on the city water tower. Care must be taken not to compromise the existing franchises already attached to the tower. An agreement will be worked out between the company and the city.

Playground Equipment: Playground equipment such as a swing and merry-go-round has been ordered for the Mayors' Park to encourage patron use.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Signed: _____
W. Lamont Merrill, Mayor

Attested: _____
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer